

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION IO-15

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4841

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 3855

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG
SUBJ: CABINET LEVEL SALARIES IN SWEDEN

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 3669, (B) STATE 239960

ALL REMUNERATION (\$40,908 P.A.) DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL A IS TAXABLE. DEDUCTIONS FROM GROSS INCOME ARE MADE IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS IN THE U.S. BUT THE STANDARD DEDUCTION IN SWEDEN IS ONLY ABOUT \$1,000. ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS CAN VARY OVER A WIDE RANGE DEPENDING UPON THE INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER'S INTEREST PAYMENTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, ANY ESTIMATE OF THE TAX DUE FOR A MARRIED PERSON WITH NO DEPENDENTS WOULD BE VERY ARBITRARY. WITH ONLY THE STANDARD DEDUCTION, TOTAL TAX (NATIONAL, COUNTY AND LOCAL) ON THE ABOVE INCOME WOULD BE \$25,776 OR ABOUT 63 PERCENT GROSS. AT THAT POINT THE INDIVIDUAL WOULD BE IN THE 81.5 PERCENT MARGINAL TAX BRACKET AND ANY DEDUCTION IS VERY VALUABLE. ALL INTEREST PAYMENTS ARE DEDUCTIBLE AND ESPECIALLY FOR HOUSE OWNERS PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL TAX SAVINGS. SWEDISH TAX LAW IS COMPLEX AND MOST PEOPLE TAKE CONSIDERABLE PAINS TO IDENTIFY ALL POSSIBLE DEDUCTIONS. THOSE IN THE UPPER INCOME LEVELS TEND TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

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